

REMARKS

The Examiner has stated that claims 34, 35, 38, 39, 45-61 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

The Examiner rejected claims 31-33, 36, 37 and 40-44 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Ng et al. (6,852,605).

Applicants respectfully traverse the §103(a) rejections with the following arguments.

35 USC § 103 Rejections

As to claim 31, the Examiner states that "The prior art shows an inductor in figure 10 comprising sidewalls (124,30,18), a top surface in (50) and a bottom surface in (20) the lower portion (20) extending a fixed distance into a dielectric layer (22) formed on a substrate (10) and the upper portion (50) extending above the dielectric layer (22). Although the prior art may not have discussed means for electrically connecting the inductor, it would have been obvious to ones skilled in the art to safely assume the prior art as having one because inductors are electrical components usable in electrical circuits such as tuning circuits and step-up and step-down environments that require connection to other devices such as capacitors."

Applicants respectfully point out that the inductor of Ng et al. in FIG. 10 is a composite inductor and comprises three separate inductors formed in three separate dielectric layers, the inductors and dielectric layers stacked on top of each other. The first inductor of Ng et al. comprises core conductor 20 and liner 18 formed in dielectric layer 12. The second inductor of Ng et al. comprises core conductor 36 and liner 30 formed in dielectric layer 22 and is stacked on top of the first inductor. The third inductor of Ng et al. comprises core conductor 50 and liner 44 formed in dielectric layer 38 and is stacked on top of the second inductor.

Applicants also respectfully point out, that there is no element 124 in Ng et al. FIG. 10 but assume that the Examiner meant to say element 44. Applicants also fail to understand what the Examiner intends elements 20 and 50 of FIG. 10 of Ng et al. to be. The Examiner first calls element 50 "a top surface 50" and later "the upper portion 50." The examiner first calls element 20 of Ng et al. "a bottom surface 20" and later "the lower portion 20." Applicants will assume elements 20 and 50 are portions.

Applicants contend that claim 31, as amended, is not obvious in view of Ng et al. because Ng et al. does not teach or suggest every feature of claim 31. As a first example, Ng et al. does not teach or suggest "a lower portion of said inductor extending into but not completely through a single dielectric layer." Applicants respectfully point out that the composite inductor of Ng et al. extends completely through all three dielectric layers. First, Applicants respectfully point out that the inductor of Ng et al. extends through three dielectric layers, not "a single dielectric layer" as Applicants claim requires. Second, Applicants respectfully point out that the Examiner's lower portion 20 (which includes sidewall 18) does not extend into dielectric layer 22 as the Examiner alleges. In Ng et al. FIG. 10, no portion of element 20 extends above dielectric layer 12 into dielectric layer 22. Further, in Ng et al. FIG. 10, the Examiner's "lower portion 20" extends completely through dielectric layer 12 and not "not completely through a dielectric layer" as Applicants claim 31 requires.

As a second example, Ng et al. does not teach or suggest "an upper portion of said inductor extending above said dielectric layer." Applicants respectfully point out that element 50 is not embedded in the dielectric layer that element 50 extends above. Based on the preceding arguments, Applicants respectfully maintain that claim 31 is not unpatentable over Ng et al. and is in condition for allowance. Since claims 32-61 depend from claim 31, Applicants respectfully maintain that claims 32-61 are likewise in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Based on the preceding arguments, Applicants respectfully believe that all pending claims and the entire application meet the acceptance criteria for allowance and therefore request favorable action. If Examiner believes that anything further would be helpful to place the application in better condition for allowance, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below. The Director is hereby authorized to charge and/or credit Deposit Account 09-0457.

Respectfully submitted,
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